



# Dauntless Digest





## Major General William Monk III - Commander



Annual training (AT) is a time for Soldiers to hone their individual and collective skills, assess strengths and weakness, build *esprit de corps*, and have some fun in the process. By my estimation, we've accomplished all of these tasks and more, and I'd like to applaud every Soldier in the HHC and the five 99<sup>th</sup> RSC Army Bands who participated and made this AT a huge success.

We've come a long way as a unit during the past year. This AT is tangible proof of the progress we've made in Soldier training and preparedness, unit cohesion, and overall mission readiness. Many strides toward this success were made by the previous HHC commander, Maj. Andy Titsworth, and Maj. Kevin Branch hasn't lost a step in leading his Soldiers forward as the current HHC commander. Kudos to him and the entire HHC command group for a job well done.



As a staff organization, we don't normally have the chance to participate in the type of training we've gone through during this AT. Having access to top-notch instructors and training facilities is just one of the many benefits of being stationed here on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. It is a golden opportunity to be able to take advantage of the wonderful resources available here, and this opportunity was not wasted.

In addition to the resources made available to us on the joint base, our local elected officials, business leaders and civic organizations continue to support the Citizen-Soldiers who live and work in their local communities. I'd like to thank these partners for their unwavering commitment to serving those who serve in uniform.

As for Army Families, I can't say enough about what you mean to the overall success of our organization. Indeed, without support from the Families, our Soldiers would not be able to accomplish their missions as successfully as they have over the years. I realize the strain military service can put on a Soldier and his or her Family, and there are no words that can fully express my thanks to you. Today's Family Day is one small way we recognize and celebrate your important role in keeping the Army and the nation strong – thank you!

The year ahead promises to offer new challenges and changes as the Army Reserve continues its transformation. Sadly, one of these changes will be my departure from 99<sup>th</sup> RSC command and reassignment, which is scheduled take place this October. As much as I hate to leave, I do so with every confidence in the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC Soldiers to whom I must soon say goodbye – I know they will not only continue to meet, but exceed, the standard they've set during the past five days.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your day.

***Dauntless!***





## CSM - Kurtis Timmer—Command Sergeant Major



To those of you who participated in this year's AT – outstanding job! There were many challenges to overcome during this training – one of the most obvious being the scorching temperatures – but you remained focused, stayed hydrated, drove on with the training, and never let anything stop you from accomplishing the mission at hand.

In short, you behaved like the professional U.S. Soldiers you are.

I saw veteran Soldiers helping their younger or less-experienced troops during training; I witnessed non-commissioned officers (NCOs) of all ranks stepping up and taking the initiative, and officers trusting their NCOs enough to let them do their jobs; and I know that we, as a unit, are tighter now than when we began this AT only five days ago. To me, that's a job well done.

Although the AT was a success, we're still in the crawl phase; next year, we plan to enter the walk phase by adding additional training and also ramping up some of the training we began this year. Remember, this is your AT – your input from the post-training After Action Reviews will be used to make next year's event even more realistic and relevant, which will do nothing but benefit you in the long run.

Training to standard is a critical part of being a Soldier, no matter his or her Military Occupational Specialty or unit type. Any Soldier can find himself or herself cross-leveled into a line unit at any time, and it is incumbent upon each Soldier to make sure he or she is ready to answer that call. The reality is that no one is 100-percent safe from deployment.

That's not meant to scare anybody; it's just a reminder that we all wear this uniform for a reason, and that we all raised our right hands and swore an oath to serve. As a leader, it is my duty to make sure my troops are proficient in their basic Soldier skills. This annual training (AT) went a long way to achieving that goal.

My main concern is, as always, taking care of Soldiers. I believe the HHC leadership has done just that with the training they provided during the past five days, and I know they will have that same thought – taking care of Soldiers – on their minds as they develop a bigger and better plan for next year's AT. I'm excited to think of the great things this unit has in store for us in the future, and I hope you are, too.

Stay safe, and always take care of your brothers and sisters in arms.

***Hooah!***





## 99th RSC Soldiers gear up for annual training

by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Alyn-Michael Macleod

*JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug 4, 2010* - Approximately 300 Soldiers from the 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC) descended on the Maj. John P. Pryor Army Reserve Center here to attend the command's first-ever annual training exercise to fulfill part of their annual training commitment for the Army Reserve.

Soldiers from Headquarters, Headquarter Company, 99<sup>th</sup> RSC stationed at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst; 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band stationed at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst; 319<sup>th</sup> Army Band stationed at Fort Totten, N.Y.; 94<sup>th</sup> Army Band stationed at East Windsor, Conn.; 198<sup>th</sup> Army Band stationed at Rochester, N.Y.; and the 380<sup>th</sup> Army Band stationed at Richmond, Va., will focus on specific warrior tasks.

Being the first annual training ever, this AT has some very specific objectives that must be met.

"My objectives are pretty simple," said Maj. Kevin D. Branch, HHC Commander, 99<sup>th</sup> RSC. "This exercise is an assessment; it gives me the opportunity to not only assess our leaders but also our logistic capabilities."

The types of training that leaders and their Soldiers will be assessed on are Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction and Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Humvee Egress Assistance Training, medical training, cultural-awareness training, reacting to Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training during the five-day exercise.

Historically, annual training is also a time where units can develop relationships and build upon those bonds to bolster esprit de corps.



"I am looking forward to meeting the new Soldiers in the 99<sup>th</sup>," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Chanda Caro, senior human resource specialist from 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Alpha Company.

The 99<sup>th</sup> RSC provides administrative, logistical, facilities management and other base-operations support to all Army Reserve Soldiers, units and properties in the northeast region of the United States. More than 46,000 Soldiers, 400 Headquarters and 300 facilities are located in the 99th's 13-state area of responsibility that stretches from Maine to Virginia.



**I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.**

**I AM A WARRIOR AND A MEMBER OF A TEAM. I  
SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND LIVE THE ARMY VALUES.**

**I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST.**

**I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT.**

**I WILL NEVER QUIT.**

**I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE.**

**I AM DISCIPLINED, PHYSICALLY AND  
MENTALLY TOUGH, TRAINED AND PROFICIENT  
IN MY WARRIOR TASKS AND DRILLS. I ALWAYS  
MAINTAIN MY ARMS, MY EQUIPMENT AND  
MYSELF.**

**I AM AN EXPERT AND I AM A PROFESSIONAL.**

**I STAND READY TO DEPLOY, ENGAGE, AND  
DESTROY THE ENEMIES OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA IN CLOSE COMBAT.**

**I AM A GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND THE  
AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.**

**I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.**





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## **Army Reserve Soldiers blow doors off urban ops training**

by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris

*JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug. 6, 2010 – “Door! Door! Door!”*

With those words, one of the team members kicked open the door as he and his fellow Soldiers stormed into the adjoining room inside the enemy stronghold. To their surprise, an Iraqi woman hiding in that room screamed as they burst in, her cries of panic adding to the fog of war already enshrouding the wide-eyed Soldiers. But there was no time for distractions – another closed door stood between them and the unknown ...

Such was the scenario that played out time and again during Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) training conducted here as part of annual training by Soldiers of the Army Reserve's 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band and Headquarters, Headquarters Company (HHC), 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC).

“The training they’re getting here is the training every Soldier needs,” said Maj. Gen. William Monk III, commanding general of the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC. “As a headquarters and units that don’t get a chance to do this very often, it’s especially important.”



“Right now, we’ve got 50 percent of our headquarters – to include some of the bandsmen – who have not yet deployed,” explained Command Sgt. Maj. Kurtis Timmer, command sergeant major for the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC and the primary instructor for the MOUT training.

“What I’m trying to do with not only the headquarters, but also the bands, is to ‘re-green’ the force, to make sure they have at least some of the basics, and to get it back into their heads that, ‘Hey, I am a Soldier regardless of what my MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) is,’ and, ‘Yes, there is still a war going on and I may get pulled to go to a unit to deploy,’” he added.

The training focused on several aspects of MOUT, including entering a building, clearing a room, and engaging targets during urban operations. Soldiers progressed through three stations: the first consisted of a “glass house” made of white engineer tape laid out on the ground in the layout of a small building, where Timmer and his training team demonstrated the proper techniques for a five-man team to enter a building and clear a room; the second featured a multi-room wooden structure that offered Soldiers the opportunity to practice what they’d learned at station one; and, finally, Soldiers got the chance to enter a dark, two-story, “enemy occupied” building where they put themselves and the training they’d just received to the test.



According to those who participated, the training was an unqualified success.

“I think it’s very good, especially if you’re deploying overseas, just to go ahead and prep,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Christine Kruise, HHC. “It’s really nice that we get hands-on here before we go forward so we know what to expect.”

“We had different set-ups where we could try different buildings, different rooms, and we had some explosions going off, so we got a more realistic feel for it,” said Spc. John Bridge, HHC Soldier Readiness Processing team.

“It’s a lot like what I did in Basic Training, except that it’s a little bit more advanced,” explained Sgt. Leslie Rickert, 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band. “I also did this in WLC (Warrior Leader Course). Some of the techniques are a little bit different, but overall it’s the same concept. I learned a lot.”

Timmer and his training team strove to find the right balance between making the training realistic and relevant, while not making it too advanced for Soldiers who have not had much experience with MOUT.

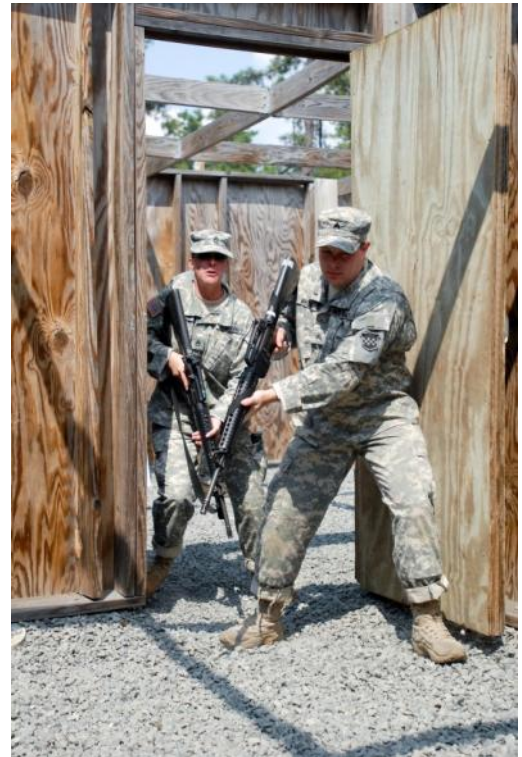
“I think we’ve got the right speed and pace – it’s not too complicated, just the basics,” Timmer explained.





Plans for next year's annual training include an expanded MOUT training program that will build upon what Soldiers learned during this year's event.

"As we continue to do combat operations in Afghanistan ... there are a number of Soldiers who could be pulled from the unit at any time to be filler with another (deploying) unit," Timmer noted.







## Headquarters company targets basic rifle marksmanship

by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris

*JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug. 5, 2010* – Soldiers from Headquarters, Headquarters Company (HHC), 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command, honed their basic rifleman skills during Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) here today.

The instruction was part of the HHC's five-day annual training and allowed participants to focus on critical Soldier skills such as weapon safety, weapon maintenance and proper firing technique.

"We use PowerPoint and hands-on training to give a Soldier – who maybe has no experience whatsoever with that weapon system – the ability to break down the weapon, clean it, make sure it's functioning properly once they put it back together, and have the (sense of) dependability in that weapon system," explained Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Casey Schwab, PMI instructor with the 2/315<sup>th</sup> Training Support Battalion.

"In order to be proficient in our basic Soldier skills and the AWT (Army Warrior Task) skill set of 'Shoot,' we have to be able to operate our weapons," said Maj. Kevin Branch, HHC commander. "PMI not only goes through the safety procedures and the maintenance procedures, but it also teaches you how to fire your weapon, how to properly engage targets."

PMI represents Phase I of the Army's Basic Rifle Marksmanship program. While many Soldiers in combat-oriented units have the chance to train with their weapons on a regular basis, headquarters companies typically perform more deskbound duties.





This annual training gives them a chance to temporarily trade their Rolodexes for rifles.

“We have a professional team of trained instructors available at this installation, and we’re taking advantage of it,” said Branch.

During the next several days of annual training, these Soldiers are scheduled to test what they’ve learned in PMI by firing simulated rounds in the computer-controlled Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000, and live rounds at the zero and qualification ranges here.

“We’re going to get out there and blow some targets down,” Branch promised.

Every Soldier in the Army Reserve has an annual requirement to qualify with his or her assigned weapon, regardless of what type of unit in which he or she serves.

While these Soldiers are required to be able to qualify with their weapons, they aren’t expected to perform like a seasoned infantry platoon. The PMI team takes a realistic approach to training by making adjustments to their classes on a unit-by-unit basis.

“Our instructors tailor the training to the group that we are training,” explained Schwab. “If there’s a person who really hasn’t had much hands-on experience, we bring it down to a point where it’s like a Basic Training Soldier and teach them every aspect of the weapon that we can possibly teach them in a four-hour block of instruction.”





## Army bands trade musical instruments for military instruction

by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris

*JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug. 4, 2010* – Soldiers from three Army Reserve bands traded woodwinds for weapons during Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) here today.

The instruction was part of the 94<sup>th</sup>, 198<sup>th</sup> and 319<sup>th</sup> Army Bands' five-day annual training and allowed participants to focus on critical Soldier skills such as weapon safety, weapon maintenance and proper firing technique.

"We use PowerPoint and hands-on training to give a Soldier – who maybe has no experience whatsoever with that weapon system – the ability to break down the weapon, clean it, make sure it's functioning properly once they put it back together, and have the (sense of) dependability in that weapon system," explained Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Casey Schwab, PMI instructor with the 2/315<sup>th</sup> Training Support Battalion.

PMI represents Phase I of the Army's Basic Rifle Marksmanship program. While many Soldiers in combat-oriented units have the chance to train with their weapons on a regular basis, Army bands are often tasked to employ their special musical talents at parades, homecomings and other special events.





“We spent two weeks in Fort Lewis,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Olear, 198<sup>th</sup> Army Band commander, of a recent mission. “Primarily, it was a musical mission because of the high optempo of incoming troops; we were constantly on call for return performances, playing for families.”

“We are always busy with commitments and don’t get a whole lot of time for this type of training,” added 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Emanuel Johnson, 319<sup>th</sup> Army Band first sergeant.

During the next several days of annual training, these Soldiers are scheduled to test what they’ve learned in PMI by firing simulated rounds in the computer-controlled Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000, and live rounds at the zero and qualification ranges here.

Every Soldier in the Army Reserve has an annual requirement to qualify with his or her assigned weapon, regardless of what type of unit in which he or she serves – including Army bands.

While these Soldiers are required to be able to qualify with their weapons, they aren’t expected to perform like a seasoned infantry platoon. The PMI team takes a realistic approach to training by making adjustments to their classes on a unit-by-unit basis.

“Our instructors tailor the training to the group that we are training,” explained Schwab. “If there’s a person who really hasn’t had much hands-on experience, we bring it down to a point where it’s like a Basic Training Soldier and teach them every aspect of the weapon that we can possibly teach them in a four-hour block of instruction.”

“If we have an individual who’s an expert with the weapon, we tell them it is a refresher for them, to pay attention, and if they have any add-ons to feel free to go ahead and add to the class,” he added.

Band members seemed grateful to not only have the chance to train in the basic Soldier skills of marksmanship, but to have qualified and experienced instructors on hand to administer that training.

“We’ve got experts in weapons training giving us training today rather than training each other,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles Emery, 94<sup>th</sup> Army Band commander. “Training each other is valuable and useful, but it’s good to have subject matter experts to train our Soldiers as well.”





## 99<sup>th</sup> RSC Annual Training Heats Up

by Spc. Kevin Harrison

*JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug. 4, 2010* – Soldiers of the 99th Regional Support Command practice overturned vehicle exiting procedures in the Humvee Egress Assessment Trainer (HEAT) during HEAT training here.

The simulator accompanies a class designed to give Soldiers practical experience exiting an overturned vehicle. This is one of many different training events 99th Soldiers plan to undergo as a part of their annual training. The five-day event includes rifle marksmanship,

medical training and other classes that help keep the Soldiers' battle skills sharp.

"Obviously rollovers are an issue in theater, so everything the instructors put out for the Soldiers better prepares them for situations like that. It gives Soldiers an idea of what can occur over there in real life," said Staff Sgt. Heather Smith, Soldier Readiness Processing team plans and operations sergeant, 99th Regional Support Command.

The HEAT simulator resembles a battle-ready Humvee, but the frame is securely suspended above ground. This design allows the trainer to be capable of rotating and stopping in various positions, giving it the unique ability to replicate the unfortunate event of an accident turning the vehicle over. This gives Soldiers practical experience in the safe exit of overturned vehicles in any position.

"We go over a lot of statistics, proper ways to hold the gunner down, and certain things that are the main causes of rollovers. It (the class) also teaches things to do and not to do to prevent rollovers from happening and precautions taken in the case of a rollover to prevent further injury and deaths," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Parsons, an instructor with 72nd Field Artillery Brigade.

Before the HEAT simulator was developed, Soldiers would do rollover drills in a stationary up-armored Humvee sat upright. The new simulator adds vibrancy to the previous training.

Before entering the simulator, instructors first lecture from a Power-Point presentation that highlights the important safety points on exiting an overturned vehicle. Next, the instructors give Soldiers reinforcement exercises to highlight the important safety measures. Once the exercises are complete, the Soldiers are ready for two trips through the rollover simulator.

The class allows each Soldier to go through the HEAT simulator twice. Parsons said one simulation will be designed to practice exit from an







overturned vehicle on land and the other to practice techniques to egress a vehicle submerged in water.

“If the Soldiers didn’t do something correctly, the instructors would stand there and assist them and explain what they did wrong and how to fix it and still keep the training process going,” said Smith.

The class is not only informative, but also becomes entertaining for the students and the instructors. Parsons said when Soldiers come in motivated, it heightens the motivation of the instructors and it helps Soldiers learn while having a good time.

As 99th Soldiers move on with the rest of their training, they leave with a better knowledge of vehicle egress, a more extensive knowledge of preventing vehicle inversion, and, perhaps, a little shaken up.



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## 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band Encounters HEAT

by Spc. Kevin Harrison

*JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-  
LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug 6, 2010 -*

Soldiers of the 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band rehearsed overturned vehicle exiting procedures in the Humvee Egress Assessment Trainer (HEAT) during a training event here.

The simulator accompanies a class designed to give Soldiers practical experience exiting an overturned vehicle. This is one of several training events included in the 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command annual training plan, in which Soldiers of the 78<sup>th</sup> Band are also participating. The five-day event includes rifle marksmanship, medical training and other classes that help keep the Soldiers' battle skills sharp.

"It really was able to simulate what it would be like to go through a rollover accident and it was one of the most realistic trainings I've had in the Army," said Sgt. Matthew Belcher, 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band trombone player.

The HEAT simulator resembles a Humvee, but the frame is securely suspended above ground. This design allows the trainer to be capable of rotating and stopping in various positions, giving it the unique ability to replicate the unfortunate event of an accident turning the vehicle over. This gives Soldiers practical experience in the safe exit of overturned vehicles in any position.

"I think for troops that are definitely mobilizing and going overseas and even troops that are in the rear, we operate Humvees as a band; it's important training to know," said Spc. Jared Burgan, 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band trombone player. "It's better to learn it and never use it than to be in a situation and not know what to do."

Before the HEAT simulator was developed, Soldiers would do rollover drills in a stationary up-armored Humvee sat upright. The new simulator adds vibrancy to the previous training.

Before entering the simulator, instructors first lecture from a PowerPoint presentation that highlights the important safety points on exiting an overturned vehicle. Next, the instructors give Soldiers reinforcement exercises to highlight the important safety measures. Once the exercises are complete, the Soldiers are ready to go through the rollover simulator.







"It was great training and very realistic. It's about as close as you can come to actually being in a real rollover in a Humvee," said Burgan.

The HEAT training continues to improve and better raise vehicle safety awareness in mobilizing Soldiers. Parsons said under the supervision of Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Anthony James, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the training, the class has more depth and detail than when he went through the training during his mobilization training.

"The last one I went through was just reading off the slides; we went into the vehicle and we rolled over once, and there wasn't really a whole explanation of what went on," said Parsons. "With Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class James and what he incorporated, it's two rollovers, - land and water rollover - and we go over battle drills to make sure everyone is properly prepared for the actual rollover."

Members of the 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band enjoyed the egress training event for its realism and informational quality. As they move on with the rest of their training, they leave with a better knowledge of vehicle egress, a more extensive knowledge of preventing vehicle inversion, and more confident that they will know what to do in the event of an emergency.





## Soldier Spotlight - Sgt. 1st Class Chanda Caro



### Twenty-year Army Reserve veteran tackles Annual Training

by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug. 4, 2010 – When Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Chanda Caro arrived here this morning to begin Annual Training with her Army Reserve unit, she must have felt a strong sense of *déjà vu*.

Caro has been dutifully reporting for military training for the past 20 years, just as she did today – and it seems as though the sands of time have not eroded Caro's enthusiasm for serving her country.

"I love learning; every day is a learning experience," explained the human resources specialist with the Army Reserve's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC), which is stationed at the Maj. John P. Pryor Army Reserve Center here.

Caro has had many "learning experiences" during her two decades of military service, including deployments to Hungary and Bosnia and mobilizations to the Pentagon in Washington and Fort Totten, N.Y.

Caro's feeling of "having lived all this before" surely continued as she pulled into a parking spot at the Pryor Army Reserve Center, since she is not only a Reserve Soldier with the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC, but also a full-time civilian employee of the organization.

"I work for the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC as a civilian as their staff administrative coordinator," she explained. "I work in the Command Group with the chief of staff and the CSM (Command Sgt. Maj. Kurtis Timmer) and the commanding general (Maj. Gen. William Monk III) and I just want to make sure everything goes smoothly and make their jobs as easy as I possibly can."

"I have great leaders, great people who I look up to," Caro said, making special note of Maj. Kevin Branch, HHC commander, and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Thomas Polino, HHC first sergeant. "Everything they say, I try to learn something from it."

Despite her many years of military experience, Caro expects to learn much during her unit's five-day Annual Training (AT), which is scheduled to include essential Soldiers tasks such as Primary Marksmanship Instruction and Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Humvee Egress Assistance Training (HEAT), medical training, cultural-awareness training, reacting to Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and urban operations including entering buildings, clearing rooms and engaging targets.







## Soldier Spotlight - Sgt. 1st Class Chanda Caro



The final day will feature a Family Readiness Group picnic for the Soldiers and their families.

“We want everyone to start AT, and everyone to complete it so that everybody comes back safely for a great family day on Sunday,” the Pittsburg native said.

Getting everyone through AT safely is a key element for success, as is always the case with military training.

“I would say the weather and the humidity will be the biggest challenges,” explained Caro. With high temperatures expected to climb into the low-to-mid 100s during the next few days, one doesn’t need to see into the future to know that Caro’s prediction is on the mark.

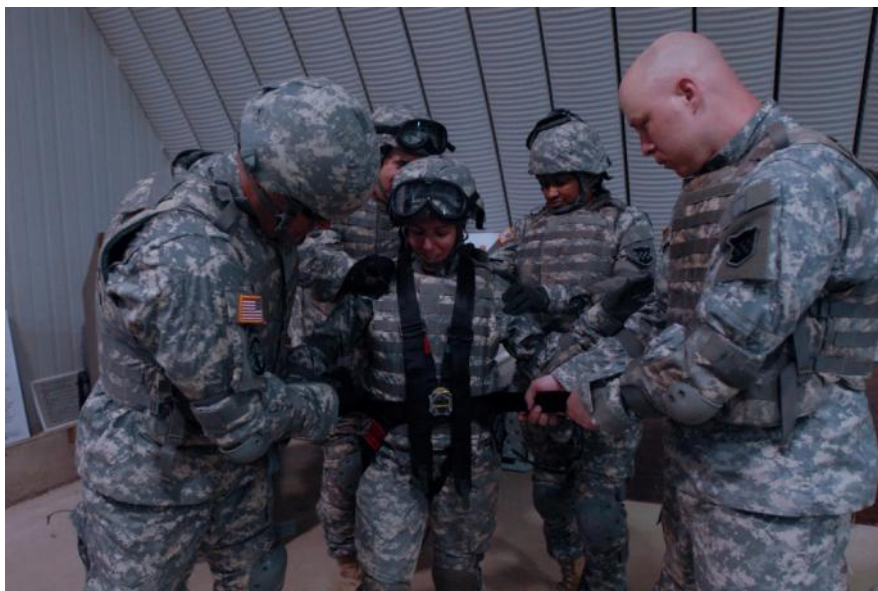
However, it was Caro’s dog – not the dog days of summer – that weighed most heavily on her mind during the days leading up to AT.

“My biggest challenge was not the training in preparing for this; my biggest concern was my dog,” said Caro, who explained that she recently moved to New Jersey from western Pennsylvania due to the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC’s relocation here. Not having any family or friends in the area, Caro scrambled to find a suitable substitute who could care for her canine during her absence.

Caro said she finally found a solution last night to her doggie dilemma, and her mind and heart are focused on the AT mission at hand. She hopes to not only improve her individual Soldier skills, but to help build unit cohesion and esprit de corps among the HHC’s old and new members alike.

As a senior non-commissioned officer and one of the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC veterans, she is poised to take a leading role in making those hopes become reality.

“Continuing to grow is a great experience,” she said.





## Soldier Spotlight - Staff Sgt. Tammy Herne



### Helping Soldiers Tops List for SRP NCO

by Spc. Kevin Harrison

*JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug 5, 2010* - Staff Sgt. Tammy Herne, a finance sergeant with the 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command's Soldier Readiness Processing team, stepped away from the daily use of her financial skills to practice Army warrior tasks during annual training events here Aug. 4-8.

She will be involved in several events that test and refresh the basic combat skills necessary for all Soldiers. Herne said the training is good and the realism of the training helps better prepare Soldiers for deployments, something with which she is very familiar.

The 99<sup>th</sup> RSC SRP team services mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers across the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC's 13-state northeast region. The team ensures Soldiers are physically, mentally, and financially prepared to mobilize before moving on to the specific theater training offered at mobilization sites. Along with Herne representing finance, the mobile SRP team travels with Soldiers representing personnel, legal, medical, information technology, and security offices.

Unlike the majority of SRP teams that remain stationary at their respective locations, the 99<sup>th</sup> SRP team has the unique ability to travel. Instead of Soldiers adding yet another movement to their readiness process, the team conveniently meets them at a nearby location. The team also takes advantage of mobilizing units' preliminary SRP and will visit units during this time, Herne explained.

"We'll get with the units and we'll assist them too, so when they come to us they're really 'good to go' and it is a lot smoother process," she explained.

Herne's civilian background becomes a great compliment to her military profession. She has a bachelor's degree in accounting and has worked as a staff accountant.

As a finance sergeant, she helps Soldiers resolve any financial discrepancies they may have and verify their financial status before entering active service. Herne makes sure they are as well informed of their entitlements as mobilized Soldiers as possible.

"I make sure all of their pay and entitlements are up to par and they know what they are supposed to get. They actually know down to the dollar how much they will be making," said Herne.

When Herne is not servicing Soldiers across the northeast, she continues to find ways to use her skills to aid other Soldiers. The finance sergeant enjoys using her Military Occupational Specialty skills to benefit her comrades.







## Soldier Spotlight - Staff Sgt. Tammy Herne



“On a day-to-day basis when I’m in the office, I’ll help the Strong Bonds out. I’ll get their orders after the retreat so I can make sure Soldiers get paid for that weekend,” said Herne.

Strong Bonds is an Army program that coordinates retreats for single Soldiers, couples and families, and is designed to increase Soldier readiness through relationship education and skills training. By lending assistance to this program, Herne helps increase the amount of Soldiers able to take advantage of the program.

Prior to the mobile SRP team, Herne also served as a finance sergeant in Kuwait. Her mission was to travel to several portions of Iraq to provide any necessary financial assistance to the Soldiers there.

“Every other week, I would take money and go up to three locations in Iraq and we would distribute cash to Soldiers in need, cash checks and fix any problems they have,” she said.

Although Herne is participating in the annual training, she said her mission to aid mobilization readiness will resume as soon as this training is complete. After almost 11 years of military service, Herne said. She plans continue to serve as part of a team that continues to train themselves and serve other Soldiers for as long as the need exists.



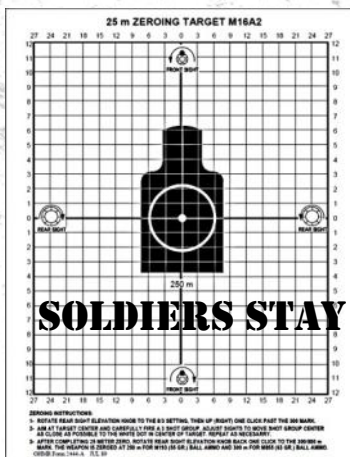




The IFAK class familiarizes Soldiers with the IFAK kit that replaced the previous medical kits issued to Soldiers mobilizing to combat environments







## SOLDIERS STAY ON TARGET AT M9, M16 QUALIFICATION RANGES

by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug. 7, 2010 – Soldiers from the Army Reserve's Headquarters, Headquarters Company (HHC), 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC), were joined by several Army bands at the M9 and M16 qualification ranges here today.

The event was part of the units' five-day annual training (AT) and not only allowed these Soldiers to fulfill their yearly qualification requirement, but also gave them re-familiarization time with weapons they rarely handle throughout the year.

"The commander and I got together and decided we'd bring our Soldiers out, get them out of the office, and give them their Warrior Task training and get them back out in a field environment," explained 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Thomas Polino, HHC first sergeant. "It doesn't matter what type of unit you are, Soldiers need Warrior Task training."

Being able to qualify with an assigned weapon is one of the Army's 40 Warrior Tasks, and something every Soldier is expected to be able to do regardless of Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or unit type.

"Like everybody always says, you're a Soldier first, and 'whatever your MOS is' second," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steve Hassinger, 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band. "We don't always have as much time to concentrate on this because we are always doing our primary MOS all the time, but you want to keep those Soldier skills sharp."

"It's a real juggling act," he added.

Earlier in the AT, these Soldiers attended classes in Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction, which is Phase I of the Army's Basic Rifle Marksmanship program. For some of the Soldiers, this instruction was only a refresher, while for others, it was a revelation.

"As far as some of the PMI classes we've taken on the M16, from what I've heard some of the members who have been in the unit for 20-odd







years really haven't seen most of this stuff because the point of instruction has changed so much," said Sgt. Matt Belcher, 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band.

Since weapons qualification is a yearly requirement, it is sure to be included in next year's 99<sup>th</sup> RSC annual training – with a few possible surprises thrown in to keep things interesting.

"(The Soldiers) were a little apprehensive about coming to start out, but since we got into training the Soldiers are motivated, they're really enjoying themselves and I think the plan we put together is a crawl phase and worked well," said Polino. "Next year, we'll go into a walk phase."







## Soldier Spotlight - Sgt. Matt Belcher



### Army bandsman brings Best Warrior experience to annual training

by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris

*JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., Aug. 7, 2010 –* As Spc. Matt Belcher shot down target after target at an M16 qualification range here, it all must have seemed very familiar to him: the sandy terrain, the pine trees, the smell of gunpowder wafting through the air.

If not for the withering temperature and humidity, he may have thought he was having flashbacks to springtime when he was one of 11 Soldiers competing in the second annual 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC) Best Warrior Competition (BWC), held here April 19-23.

The smell of sweat and sunscreen surely brought Belcher back to the reality that this is summer, and that this latest visit to the qualification range was part of the 99<sup>th</sup>RSC's first-ever annual training (AT) in the command's history, which dates back to when the unit was activated here nearly two years ago.



"This is definitely a little bit better paced for me," said Belcher of annual training versus the BWC. "It's more of a learning experience."

"(The BWC) was a faster pace," he continued. "It was almost like taking everything from Basic Training until now in my Army career and bundling it up into four or five days, and one event right after another."

"It was pretty tough, and with the pace of it you really had no time to recover," he added.

The pace was certainly slower during AT, which was done purposely to give the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC units that participated – the Headquarters, Headquarters Company (HHC) and several bands including Belcher's 78<sup>th</sup> Army Band – a chance to ease into training that is not typically part of their schedules, but in which every Soldier must be proficient regardless of Military Occupational Specialty or unit type.

"Everyone's a Soldier, and everyone's got to know what they're doing," Belcher said. "The band has its mission, but everybody is one Army – one team, one fight."

"Events like this AT will help prepare for that," he added.

Besides the qualification range, another training event shared by AT and BWC was Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT). Belcher reflected on the differences between the two.

"The MOUT site for this AT has been at a pace where you can really walk through everything and see how you need to do things," Belcher explained.



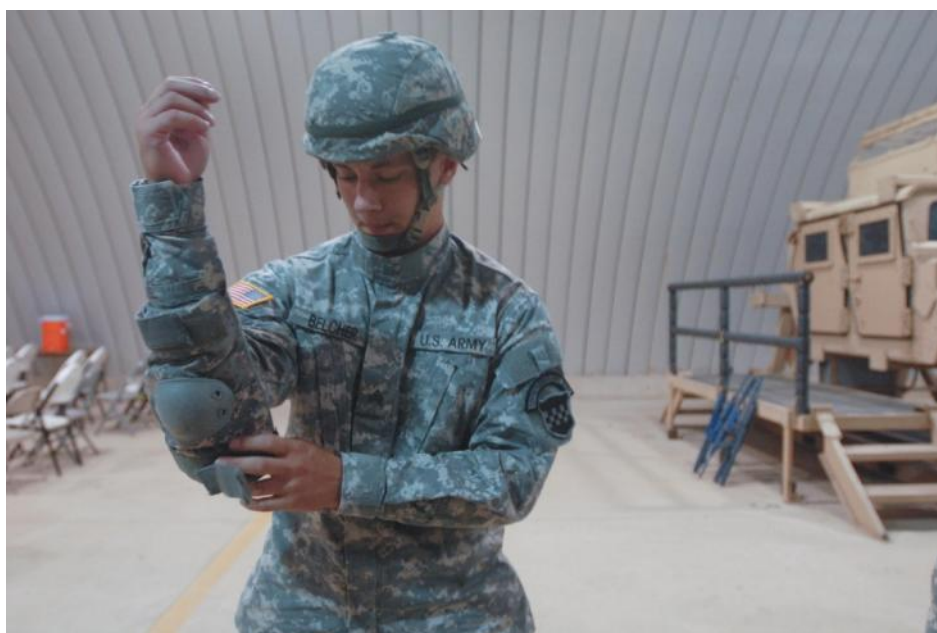
## Soldier Spotlight - Sgt. Matt Belcher



"The Competition, however, was really very comprehensive and it covered all aspects from getting to the village, to actually clearing the village, to doing the medevac," he continued.

"(AT) was very task based where it was a single task of clearing the room and learning how to do that," he said. "The Competition was everything that you would need to do to accomplish the mission."

"This is more of a crawl," Belcher said of AT, referring to the Army's "Crawl, Walk, Run" model of training. The 99<sup>th</sup> RSC leadership has hinted that next year's AT will advance to the "Walk" phase, which may even give Belcher a run for his money.







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